

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 185

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and National Memory Screening Day, including the development of a national health policy on dementia screening and care.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 16, 2009

Mr. WARNER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and National Memory Screening Day, including the development of a national health policy on dementia screening and care.

Whereas Alzheimer's disease is a slow, progressive disorder of the brain that results in loss of memory and other cognitive function and, eventually, death;

Whereas Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and currently affects an estimated 2,400,000 to 4,500,000 people in the United States;

Whereas the stigma associated with the disease results in a delay of diagnosis, in some cases up to 6 years;

Whereas Alzheimer’s disease takes an enormous toll on family members, with an estimated 1 in 4 people in the United States acting as caregivers for each individual with the disease;

Whereas caregivers for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease suffer more stress, depression, and health problems than caregivers of people with other illnesses;

Whereas recent advancements in scientific research have demonstrated the benefits of early medical treatment for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease, as well as the benefits of early access to counseling and other support services for their caregivers;

Whereas with early diagnosis, individuals with the disease can avoid or correct contributing medical problems, commence available therapy, organize current and future care, and enhance self-determination, and caregivers can identify and embrace community support services;

Whereas in direct response to research breakthroughs, National Memory Screening Day was established by the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America (“AFA”) as a collaborative effort with local organizations and health care professionals across the country to promote awareness, early detection, and early diagnosis of memory impairment, so that individuals can obtain proper medical treatment, social services, and other resources related to their condition;

Whereas National Memory Screening Day is held by AFA each November in recognition of National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month and on this day, qualified health care professionals administer free, confidential,

face-to-face memory screenings at thousands of sites throughout the United States;

Whereas memory screening is not used to diagnose any illness but is used as an indicator to determine whether a person might benefit from further examination by a qualified health care provider;

Whereas memory screenings are a safe and cost-effective intervention to direct at-risk individuals to appropriate clinical resources, thus reducing the costs of long-term care or hospitalization resulting from undiagnosed complications; and

Whereas screenings also greatly benefit those with normal scores, by checking their memory, allaying fears, and promoting chronic disease prevention and successful aging: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the seriousness of Alzheimer’s
3 disease and the toll it takes on individuals with the
4 disease and their caregivers;

5 (2) acknowledges that more outreach and edu-
6 cation is needed to eliminate the stigma associated
7 with the disease and assist individuals and their
8 caregivers in identifying available screenings, treat-
9 ments and support;

10 (3) encourages all people in the United States
11 with memory concerns or who want to check their
12 memory to have annual memory screenings at Na-

1 tional Memory Screening Day sites or by other
2 qualified health care professionals;

3 (4) congratulates State and local organizations
4 representing individuals with memory problems,
5 caregivers, and health care professionals for their
6 commitment to improve the quality of life of individ-
7 uals and families confronting dementia by providing
8 optimal care and services; and

9 (5) supports the goals and ideals of National
10 Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and National
11 Memory Screening Day, including the development
12 of a national health policy on dementia screening
13 and care.

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